



History of Anthropology Newsletter

Volume 12
Issue 2 *December 1985*

Article 3

1-1-1985

Creation of the Archives de l'ethnologie, Musée de l'Homme

SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

I. Creation of the Archives de l'ethnologie, Musée de l'Homme

In March of 1985, it was decided to form a new section of the Laboratoire d'Ethnologie du Musée de l'Homme, Paris, entitled the Department d'Archives de l'ethnologie. Directed by Jean Jamin, the Archives will have the task of inventorying manuscripts relating to the ethnographic collections of the Laboratoire; constituting an archive for the history of the Musée, and more generally, of French ethnology; encouraging rerearch on the epistemology and history of ethnology; and organizing a seminar devoted to the history of museological theories and practices in ethnology.

FOOTNOTES FOR THE HISTORY OF ANTHROPOLOGY

'Yours Affectionately, Rex'--

Radcliffe-Brown During and After World War II.

A. R. Radcliffe-Brown first met Lloyd Warner in 1926 when he was in transit between two of the many academic appointments he held during the course of his peripatetic career as the Jonathan Applesseed of social anthropology. Having just left the University of Cape Town, where he had served for five years as the first professor of social anthropology, he stopped off in Berkeley on his way to fill the new chair in social anthropology at the University of Sydney. The two were immediately taken with each other intellectually--Warner with Radcliffe-Brown's systematic approach to social phenomena; Radcliffe-Brown, with the obvious capacity of the young student of Robert Lowie--and there seems also to have been a strong personal appeal. Within months, Warner was off to do fieldwork among the Murngin of Arnhem Land in northern Australia, which eventually resulted in a book he dedicated to Radcliffe-Brown (Warner 1937). Warner went on to direct a series of studies of modern communities--all of which he regarded as case studies for Radcliffe-Brown's project of a "comparative natural science of society." In 1935, Warner came to the University of Chicago, to which Radcliffe-Brown had migrated in 1931, and for two years they were both members of the same department of anthropology, before Radcliffe-Brown finally returned from two decades in various then and former British colonies to take up the chair in social anthropology at Oxford--an appointment which, as it happened, did not mark the end of his academic travelling. Over the next decade Warner and Radcliffe-Brown (still known as "Rex" to his intimates) kept in touch, and "R-B"'s half of the correspondence casts an interesting light on the later phase of his career (cf. Stocking 1984). [G.W.S.]